

say from his own knowledge that in several of the counties a degree of painful interest attached to the subject more than on any other subject before the Convention. In these localities the sentiment was general that some defect existed in the present system, and in those localities to which he referred there was a casting about as to the remedies for these defects. He would ask whether in the rest of the State the opinion prevailed, reflected by the gentleman from Harford, that there should be a change in those administering the law only, and not in the system, or was it the sentiment that the vice which all acknowledged existed in the system itself?

He had not heard a reason assigned in this debate for the continuance of the limited tenure in the judiciary department, and did not remember to have read any reason assigned in any debate on the subject which had preceded this. The only reason assigned by his friend from Harford for the limited tenure was the facility which it afforded for getting rid of an incompetent judge.

Mr. Archer said that he had stated that under the elective system popular sentiment would have a wholesome restraint upon a judge, which could not be exercised if the judge derived his office from appointment.

Mr. Maulsby said it was on this very point that he maintained the great influence of partisan considerations. He would put a suppositious case, and hoped he would not be considered disrespectful in so doing. Suppose at any time between 1851 and 1864 Chief Justice Taney had been the candidate of the party opposed to him (Mr. M.) and the members of this Convention, and suppose his honor the present judge of the Criminal Court of Baltimore city had been the candidate of their party, would they not all have persuaded themselves that it was their duty to have voted for Judge Bond—that he was the most proper man of the two?

Mr. Reynolds said, as one member, he would answer the question. Although always a Democrat, he had never voted for a bad man on that ticket, and he should certainly have scratched Mr. Bond.

Mr. Maulsby said that was only because of recent developments; but they must admit that no matter who was